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United Nations

Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: priorities for action

(Yanuca, Fiji, 28-30 November 2006)

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Note

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Chapter I
Introduction

1. In its resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, the General Assembly declared the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action set out in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1), updated where necessary, to serve as the plan of action for the Second Decade. The report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (A/56/61) contains an updated plan of action.

2. In its resolution 60/119 of 8 December 2005, the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples envisaged for 2006, including the holding of a seminar in the Pacific region to be organized by the Special Committee and attended by the representatives of all the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

3. As stated in the guidelines and rules of procedure for the seminar (A/AC.109/2006/1/Rev.1), the purpose of the seminar is to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, in order to define priorities for follow-up and intensified action in the remaining years of the Decade. The seminar would also assess the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories,[1] in particular their constitutional evolution towards self-government and self-determination, with a view to developing, in cooperation with the administering Powers and the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The seminar would also identify areas in which the United Nations system and the international community at large could enhance programmes of assistance to the Territories within an integral framework ensuring the political and sustainable socio-economic development of the Territories concerned.

4. The topics considered by the seminar will assist the Special Committee in making a realistic evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The seminar gave pre-eminence to a broad range of views of the peoples of those Territories. It also sought to secure the participation of organizations and institutions that are actively involved in the political, economic and social development of the Territories.

5. The contributions of the participants served as a basis for the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar, which will be carefully studied by the Special Committee with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

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[1] At present, the list of Territories with which the Special Committee is concerned and to which the Declaration is applicable includes American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the United States Virgin Islands and Western Sahara.

Chapter II
Organization of the seminar

6. The seminar was held in Yanuca, Fiji, from 28 to 30 November 2006.

7. The seminar consisted of five meetings, in which representatives of States Members of the United Nations, Non-Self-Governing Territories, administering Powers, non-governmental, regional and other organizations and experts took part. The list of participants is given in annex I. The seminar was organized to encourage an open and frank exchange of views.

8. The seminar was conducted by Anthony Bryan Severin, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations and Chairman of the Special Committee, with the participation of the following members of the Special Committee: China, Congo, Cuba, Fiji (host country), Indonesia, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia and Sierra Leone. New Zealand, France and the United States of America, administering Powers, participated in the seminar, the latter two as observers. Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Kiribati, Morocco and Spain also participated.

9. At the 1st meeting, on 28 November 2006, the following members of the Special Committee were appointed Vice-Chairmen of the seminar: Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz (Cuba) and Sulay-Manah Kpukumu (Sierra Leone). Albert Sitnikov (Russian Federation) was appointed Rapporteur of the seminar. The Chairman guided the work of the drafting group, which was composed of the representatives of all members of the Special Committee attending the seminar: China, Congo, Cuba, Fiji, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia and Sierra Leone.

10. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

(a) Role of the Special Committee in facilitating the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories within the framework of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:

(i) Assessment of progress so far, the role of the administering Powers and participation by the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(ii) Strengthening and improving cooperation with administering Powers with a view to implementing the decolonization mandate in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

(b) The case of Tokelau:

(i) Perspective of the administering Power;

(ii) Perspective of Tokelau;

(iii) Views of experts with experience of this case.

(c) Perspectives of administering Powers and representatives of Territories in the Pacific region concerning their present status and the completion of the decolonization process in those Territories.

(d) Views of experts on the decolonization process in the Pacific region.

(e) Follow-up to the 2005 Caribbean regional seminar in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:

(i) Perspective of the Special Committee;

(ii) Perspective of the administering Powers;

(iii) Perspective of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

(f) Views of the representatives of other Non-Self-Governing Territories on their present status and the completion of the decolonization process in their Territories.

(g) Role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories: presentations by representatives of the United Nations Development Programme and an independent expert.

(h) Recommendations on advancing the work for the remainder of the Second International Decade:

(i) Recommendations on advancing the decolonization process in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific region;

(ii) Recommendations on advancing the decolonization process in the Caribbean and other Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Chapter III
Overview of the seminar

A. Proceedings of the seminar

11. On 28 November, Anthony Bryan Severin (Saint Lucia) opened the seminar in his capacity as its Chairman.

12. The Minister of State for Small and Microenterprises and Information Technology of the Republic of the Fiji Islands, Pio Tabaiwalu, addressed the seminar.

13. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Special Committee made an opening statement (see annex II).

14. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Decolonization Unit, Department of Political Affairs, read out a message from the Secretary-General (see annex III).

15. On 30 November, at the fifth meeting, the Chairman made a concluding statement.

16. At the same meeting, the participants adopted by acclamation a resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Fiji (see annex IV).

B. Statements and discussions[2]

17. At the 1st meeting, on 28 November, statements were made by the Chairman and by the Ulu-o-Tokelau, administrator of Tokelau. Expert Falani Aukuso (Tokelau) made a presentation on Tokelau. Jovilisi Suveinakama (Tokelau) presented a paper on Tokelau by expert Tony Angelo (New Zealand). Representatives of Morocco, Algeria, Cuba, Frente Polisario and the Chairman made statements on point of order.

18. At the 2nd meeting, on 28 November, statements were made by the representative of American Samoa and representatives of the Organization of People for Indigenous Rights (Guam), Comité Rheebu Nuu (New Caledonia), Pacific Concerns Resource Centre (Fiji) and Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste (FLNKS) of New Caledonia. The representative of France made a statement. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) made a presentation on Tokelau.

19. At the 3rd meeting, on 29 November, statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Morocco, Spain, the British Virgin Islands, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),[3] Frente Polisario and the United States Virgin Islands.

20. At the 4th meeting, on 29 November, a presentation was made by expert Carlyle Corbin (United States Virgin Islands). Statements were made by the representatives of China, Kiribati and Indonesia.

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[2] All statements and discussion papers of the seminar are available from the United Nations decolonization website, http://www.un.org/Depts/dpi/decolonization.

[3] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

21. At the 5th meeting, on 30 November, the participants considered the draft report of the seminar presented by the rapporteur of the seminar, Albert Sitnikov (Russian Federation).

Chapter IV
Conclusions and recommendations

22. At the 5th meeting, on 30 November 2006, the Chairman presented to the participants the conclusions and recommendations outlined below.

A. Role of the Special Committee in facilitating the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories within the framework of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

1. Eradicating colonialism, the role of the Special Committee and the plan of action

23. The Seminar reconfirmed that the United Nations has a valid ongoing role in the process of decolonization. The mandate of the Special Committee is a major programme of the United Nations. United Nations support should be provided, until all outstanding decolonization issues are resolved in a satisfactory manner.

24. The participants reaffirmed the role of the Special Committee as the primary vehicle for fostering the process of decolonization and for expediting the implementation of the plan of action to move towards achieving the goals of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, in accordance with resolution 55/146, as well as for monitoring the situation in the territories.

25. The seminar recommended that the Special Committee continue to monitor the evolution of the Non-Self-Governing Territories towards achieving self-determination, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions.

26. The Special Committee should include, as appropriate, the participation of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, on a case-by-case basis, in the consultations between the Special Committee and the administering Powers.

27. The implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, set out in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, is not complete so long as there remain Non-Self-Governing Territories that have yet to exercise their right to self-determination, in accordance with the relevant resolutions, including General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions on special and particular colonial situations. The inalienable rights of the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories must be guaranteed by the United Nations and the Special Committee in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541(XV) of 15 December 1960.

28. As long as the administering Powers exercise unilateral authority to make laws and other regulations affecting the Non-Self-Governing Territories without their consent, pursuant to such methods as legislation, orders in council and other methods, a Territory should not be considered self-governing.

29. In the process of decolonization, and where there are no disputes over sovereignty, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right. All available options for self-determination are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained

in the Charter of the United Nations, and as enunciated in resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV), and in other relevant resolutions and decisions.

30. Any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

31. The participants noted that in the development of work programmes for individual Territories, the participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in which there is no dispute over sovereignty should be ensured. They also pointed out that any work programme should include an information and education campaign for the peoples of those Territories, visiting missions of the Special Committee to ascertain the situation in the Territories first-hand and a consultation process acceptable to the peoples in the Territories leading to the exercise of their right to self-determination in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

32. The Special Committee should continue to develop a mechanism to systematically review, on an annual basis, the implementation of the specific recommendations on decolonization, with a focus on implementing the mandate as set out in Assembly resolutions and the plan of action of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

33. In view of the variety of circumstances of individual Non-Self-Governing Territories, some participants noted the need to consider the adoption of new thinking on decolonization within the context of the current global realities, on a case-by-case basis.

2. Public awareness and information campaigns

34. Continued examination of the spectrum of options for self-determination by all parties concerned and dissemination of relevant information among the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories are important elements in achieving the goals of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and of the plan of action.

35. The participants affirmed the need for the Special Committee, in collaboration with the Department of Public Information, actively to embark on a public awareness campaign aimed at fostering an understanding among the people of the Territories of the options for self-determination included in the relevant United Nations resolutions on decolonization, especially within the context of developing programmes of work for specific Territories. The programme should disseminate information with the aim of raising public awareness in the Territories in order to heighten people's understanding of the legitimate political status options available to them in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, including the 1960 Declaration.

36. In that connection, the participants encouraged the Department of Public Information to continue to disseminate relevant information, including to the media, non-governmental organizations and civic groups, using the tools of communication available to it and making use of such opportunities as regional seminars and visiting missions. United Nations information centres can assist in this process. The participants took note of the work undertaken by the Department and the Decolonization Unit in preparing the brochure entitled "What the United Nations

can do to assist the Non-Self-Governing Territories", which is now available on the United Nations decolonization website and which will be further enriched.

37. The participants encouraged the United Nations to assist Non-Self-Governing Territories that are granted observer status at United Nations world summits and conferences and at special sessions of the General Assembly by facilitating the dissemination of information to them regarding those meetings.

38. The cooperation of the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs should be requested to provide support and assistance for any consultation or monitoring process to be held in a Non-Self-Governing Territory regarding any act of self-determination. Participants reiterated the importance of such assistance, and acknowledged the role of the Electoral Affairs Division in the Tokelau referendum.

3. Visiting and special missions

39. The participants noted the numerous requests made at the seminar by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories for visiting and special missions to be undertaken as soon as possible and called on the administering Powers to cooperate in facilitating such missions, where there are no sovereignty disputes. They also took note of the positive impact of the special missions to Bermuda in 2005 and to the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2006, made possible with the cooperation of the administering Power. They reiterated the importance of such missions in raising public awareness of decolonization issues and possible options available for self-determination, while assessing the situation in those Territories, and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status, and called on the administering Powers to cooperate in facilitating such visiting missions.

4. Regional seminars

40. As activities of the plan of action of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, regional seminars serve as an effective forum for focused discussion on matters of concern to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and afford opportunities for representatives of the peoples of the Territories to present their views and recommendations to the Special Committee. The administering Powers should facilitate the participation of the elected representatives of the Territories in the seminars in conformity with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

41. The regional nature of the seminars, alternating between the Caribbean and the Pacific, remains a crucial element in their success.

42. The participants took note of the decision of the Special Committee to coordinate its annual seminars with other relevant activities to be conducted in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including visiting and special missions, as appropriate, in order to better utilize its resources.

43. The Special Committee should adopt the report on the regional seminar held in Yanuca, Fiji, from 28 to 30 November 2006, and include it in its report to the General Assembly, as it did with the reports of the previous regional seminars. The participants also recommended that the Special Committee integrate, to the extent possible, the recommendations of the regional seminars into its relevant resolutions

on decolonization, as those recommendations are important expressions of the will of the people of the territories.

44. The participants reiterated the importance of the conclusions and recommendations at the previous regional seminars, held in Vanuatu (1990), Barbados (1990), Grenada (1992), Papua New Guinea (1993, 1996 and 2004), Trinidad and Tobago (1995), Antigua and Barbuda (1997), Fiji (1998 and 2002), Saint Lucia (1999), the Marshall Islands (2000), Cuba (2001), Anguilla (2003) and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (2005).

5. Role of the administering Powers and other States Members of the United Nations

45. The participants welcomed the presence of the representatives of France, New Zealand and the United States. They regretted the lack of representation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and reiterated their call upon all administering Powers to engage the Special Committee in constructive dialogue in the future.

46. The seminar once again recommended that the Special Committee, the administering Powers and the Non-Self-Governing Territories engage in constructive discussions and innovative ways to expedite the implementation of the goals of the Second International Decade and its Plan of Action for the Eradication of Colonialism as set out in General Assembly resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000. Participants nonetheless expressed concern regarding the continued non-cooperation of two administering Powers and suggested that it might be useful to reiterate the request for the use of the Secretary-General's "good offices" to break the impasse.

47. The participants drew the attention of the administering Powers to the three options listed in resolution 1541 (XV) (annex), in which the Assembly stated that a Non-Self-Governing Territory could be said to have reached a full measure of self-government, as envisaged in the Charter, by: (a) emergence as a sovereign independent State; (b) free association with an independent State; or (c) integration with an independent State.

48. The Special Committee expressed its appreciation to Argentina, Algeria, Brazil, Kiribati, Morocco and Spain for their participation in the seminar and encouraged other States Members to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee.

B. Case of Tokelau

49. The Seminar noted with satisfaction the managed legitimate process of Tokelau's self-determination journey conducted and based on local customs and realities through an intensive consultative process. The Seminar also noted the progress in the relationship between Tokelau as a non-self-governing territory and New Zealand as the administering Power in the context of self-determination and calls upon non-self-governing territories and the administering Powers to build closer cooperation arrangements for a sustainable self-governing process with a firm commitment by the United Nations as an honest referee.

50. The seminar further noted the decision of Tokelau to hold another referendum on its self-determination in November 2007 and expressed that the right to self-determination should be viewed and supported in its unique context (a case-by-case approach). It also noted that all three parties (Tokelau, the administering Power and the United Nations) involved should engage in a concerted effort to ensure that full information on the draft treaty and constitution is disseminated, discussed and consulted upon through a comprehensive awareness programme in the villages of Tokelau and among Tokelauans living abroad over the next 12 months.

51. Participants noted Tokelau's preparation for a second referendum for self-determination, acknowledged Tokelau's fragility and supported Tokelau in its objective of obtaining further assistance. They also noted the establishment of an International Trust Fund intended as a secure and guaranteed investment for future generations of Tokelauans. They urged Member States to contribute to the Fund, inter alia, through a donor round table to be organized by the United Nations Development Programme.

52. Participants recommended that the administering Power of Tokelau, with the support of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations, advance as much as possible Tokelau's priorities for development for 2007-2010. The advancement of those priorities will contribute significantly and add to the confidence of the people of Tokelau as that country approaches a second self-determination referendum in November 2007.

C. Perspectives of administering Powers, representatives of Territories and experts in the Pacific region

53. The participants noted with concern the military installations and activities of the administering Powers in Non-Self-Governing Territories, which run counter to the rights and interests of the people concerned and which create serious health and environmental hazards.

54. Participants took note of the statement of the representative of the Organization of People for Indigenous Rights of Guam and of the concerns expressed regarding the increased military presence of the administering Power which was said to be adversely affecting the culture and life of the indigenous people. Note was also taken of the concerns expressed regarding the effects of large-scale immigration to the island.

55. The seminar took note of the statements by two non-governmental organizations from New Caledonia in which concerns were expressed on the lack of progress in some aspects of the Nouméa Accord (A/AC.109/2114, annex), particularly those referring to environmental issues, economic development, maintenance of the cultural values of the indigenous people as well as issues relating to the re-establishment of the electoral body. Participants also took note of the request for the Special Committee to undertake a midterm review of the Nouméa Accord in 2007/8. The seminar took note of the statement by the administering Power regarding the progress achieved so far and its commitment to the full implementation of the Matignon Accords (see A/AC.109/1000, paras. 9-14) and the Nouméa Accord.

56. The seminar also took note of the concern raised by the representatives of organizations from New Caledonia on the non-availability of interpretation from French, which impaired their participation at optimal level.

57. The seminar took note of the statement by the Lieutenant Governor of American Samoa, including his assertion that the Territory is satisfied with its present relationship with the administering Power and would like to explore ways and means to be de-listed. The seminar further noted that to be de-listed certain steps needed to be taken in conformity with relevant General Assembly resolutions, and that the administering Power would need to be engaged, which is not presently the case.

D. Follow-up to the 2005 Caribbean regional seminar

58. The participants took note of the advances made and challenges faced by some Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean which may contribute to a decision regarding their exercising the right to self-determination in the near future, while others are still facing difficulties in developing a process leading to their self-determination.

59. The seminar took note of the statement by the representative of the British Virgin Islands in which he provided an update on the status of the constitutional modernization process under way in the Territory, which is to lead to the adoption of a new constitution in the near future. It also noted the representative's statement regarding cooperation with the administering Power. However, the seminar noted the continued lack of engagement of the administering Power with the Special Committee.

60. The seminar took note of the statement by the representative of the United States Virgin Islands in which he reaffirmed that the decolonization of all Non-Self-Governing Territories, including his own, was a function of the United Nations Charter as well as international legal instruments. The decision by the territorial Government to address the internal structure of governance through the drafting of a local constitution would not alter the dependency status, and the process of determining a permanent political status should be continually monitored by the United Nations.

E. Views of the representatives of other Non-Self-Governing Territories

61. The participants, in considering the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), reiterated that the Special Committee should continue to encourage the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom with the aim of finding a lasting solution to the situation, taking into account the interests of the population of the Territory, in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

62. With regard to Western Sahara, the participants urged the two parties to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the

United Nations, noting the role and responsibilities of the parties in this respect, and urged the parties and States of the region to continue to cooperate fully with the United Nations to end the current impasse and to achieve progress towards a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution. The participants recalled the mandate of the Special Committee in respect of the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

F. Role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories

63. The Special Committee expressed its appreciation for the participation of the representative of the United Nations Development Programme and the statement made in the context of the work being undertaken in the Pacific and, in particular, Tokelau. Participants also acknowledged the contribution of experts on the issue of cooperation with and assistance from the United Nations system and regional organizations.

64. The participants supported closer cooperation between the Special Committee and the Economic and Social Council in order to promote increased United Nations assistance in the economic and social sphere to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The participants urged the Special Committee to solicit the assistance of the Economic and Social Council regarding the implementation of Council resolution 2006/37 of 28 July 2006 on support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations.

65. All Non-Self-Governing Territories should be given access to relevant United Nations programmes in the economic and social sphere, including those emanating from the plans of action of United Nations major summits and conferences, in furtherance of capacity-building and consistent with the necessary preparation for the attainment of a full measure of internal self-government.

66. The seminar stressed that the wider United Nations system should continue to explore ways to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and seek concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions by the specialized agencies, as detailed in General Assembly resolution 56/67 of 10 December 2001.

67. The participants recognized the vulnerability of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, which continues to be of major concern, and also that their vulnerability would grow unless urgent steps were taken to address and strengthen the Territories' capacities, in accordance with the Mauritius Declaration,[4] and expressed their appreciation to UNDP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the relevant United Nations regional commissions for the work they are undertaking in this regard.

[4] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Luis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex. I.

68. The seminar reiterated its support for the current participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant regional commissions of the United Nations and in the specialized agencies of the United Nations. It called for the increased involvement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the programmes and activities of the United Nations system in furtherance of the decolonization process, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions and decisions on specific Territories.

69. The participants requested those members of the Special Committee that are members of the Economic and Social Council to support the inclusion of Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in the work of the Council, pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the Commission and in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Council.

70. The participants recommended that the Special Committee establish closer ties with relevant regional organizations and encouraged Non-Self-Governing Territories to develop closer contacts with them.

Annex I

List of participants

Members of the Special Committee

Saint Lucia	Anthony Bryan Severin[a] (Chairman)
Cuba	Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz[a] (Vice-Chairman)
Congo	Luc Joseph Okio[a] (Vice-Chairman)
China	Fei Mingxing
Fiji (Host country)	Sainivalati S. Navoti[a]
Indonesia	Francis Guritno
Russian Federation	Albert Sitnikov[a]
Saint Lucia	Michelle Joseph
Sierra Leone	Sulay-Manah Kpukumu[a]

States Members of the United Nations

Algeria	Hamza Yahia-Cherif
Argentina	Gerardo Abel Diaz Bartolomé
	Ana Marcela Pastorino
Brazil	Eduardo Carvalho
Kiribati	Tebao Awerika
Morocco	El Hassane Zahid
	Ramdan Mesaud Larbi
	Kamal Sadiqi
Spain	Alberto Virella

Administering Powers

France (observer)	Jean-François Bouffandeau
New Zealand	David Payton
United States of America (observer)	Lydia Faleafine-Nomura

[a] Member of the official delegation of the Special Committee.

Non-Self-Governing Territories

American Samoa	Aitofele Toese Sunia
British Virgin Islands	Kedrick Pickering
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)[b]	Richard Davies
New Caledonia	Front de libération nationale Kanak socialiste (FLNKS)
	Nicole Waia
	Patricia Goa
Tokelau	Kolouei O'Brien
	Jovilisi Suveinakama
United States Virgin Islands	Carlyle Corbin
Western Sahara	Fadel Kamal Mohamed

Organizations of the United Nations system

United Nations Children's Fund	Losana Korovulavula
United Nations Development Programme	Mads K. Nielsen

Non-governmental organizations

Comité Rheebu Nuu (New Caledonia)	Raphael Mapou
	Gustave Agourou
	Victor Ouetcho
Organization of People for Indigenous Rights (Guam)	Hope Alvarez Cristobal
Pacific Concerns Resource Centre (Fiji)	Rex Rumakiek
	Jacob Rumbiak
	John O. Ondawame

Experts

Falani Aukuso (Tokelau)

Carlyle Corbin (United States Virgin Islands)

[b] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

Annex II

Statement by Anthony Bryan Severin, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations, Chairman of the Special Committee

In addressing the role of the Special Committee in the Decolonization process, I would begin with a short historical perspective.

The Special Committee was established in 1961 by General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (resolution 1514 (XV)), which had been adopted one year earlier in 1960.

The Special Committee essentially replaced the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories which had existed prior to the adoption of the Declaration, and which was ultimately dissolved in 1963. Accordingly, the Special Committee was given the additional mandate to study the information transmitted to the United Nations by the administering Power on developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Decolonization has two components, one informational and the other analytical.

The mandate of the Special Committee on decolonization is normally renewed annually by resolution of the General Assembly.

In 1991, the General Assembly adopted the first International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, including a plan of action that mandated specific tasks to be undertaken at the international and United Nations system levels. It also mandated actions to be undertaken by the administering Powers, States Members of the United Nations, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, and by the Special Committee on Decolonization.

In this connection, the Special Committee was asked in the plan of action to prepare periodic analyses on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration in each Territory.

The plan of action also called for the Special Committee to report on the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

A number of delegations expressed the concern in the general debate of the Special Committee and Fourth Committee throughout the first International Decade that while the annual Secretariat working papers on each Territory provided useful statistical and other information, they did not provide the necessary analysis called for in the plan of action to inform Member States. Alternative measures to undertake those studies were proposed during the period, but were not implemented.

In view of the fact that the first Decade did not achieve the eradication of colonialism, the General Assembly in 2000 declared the period 2001-2010 as the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, with the identical plan of action of the first decade.

Delegations continued to express their concern for the absence of analytical studies, most recently in the statement of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) before the Fourth Committee last October.

In the plan of action of both decades, the Special Committee was asked to organize regional seminars, which it has done admirably, and to seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers with respect to the dispatch of visiting missions, where some success has been achieved.

Both plans of action have also directed the Special Committee to facilitate the participation of the Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies.

In this connection, the Special Committee has facilitated the participation of some territories through their statements to the Special Committee and the Fourth Committee. Regarding participation in the specialized agencies of the United Nations, the Special Committee has recommended language to that effect for inclusion in resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The actual implementation of participation of territories in United Nations, regional and international institutions, however, is facilitated by the territorial Governments themselves, with support from the United Nations Development Programme, the relevant regional commissions and the international organizations concerned. An expert paper to be presented later in this seminar will expand on this issue.

The Special Committee continues to request that the specialized agencies report on their assistance programmes to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, pursuant to relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, but the numbers of agencies reporting are far too few. Innovative methods are required to ensure that information on these programmes is transmitted, and that such programmes are initiated in those United Nations agencies where they do not presently exist, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions.

In the proposed strategic frameworks for 2006-2007, and 2008-2009 for the Department of Political Affairs, which services the Special Committee, reference is made to Special Committee cooperation with the Department of Public Information on the wide dissemination of information on decolonization, including publications and audio-visual programmes. Concerns have been expressed by representatives of the Territories that such information has not reached the Territories.

In conclusion, the informational role of the Special Committee to report the information transmitted to the United Nations on developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories is manifest in the compilation of information from the administering Powers, several United Nations bodies and press reports. This information is synthesized in the working papers prepared by the Secretariat.

The original mandate of the Special Committee in examining the application of the Declaration is not being carried out effectively. Innovative means are necessary to carry out this important component, with new resources, within existing resources provided to the Special Committee, or with external resources.

It is important to note that the mandate of the Special Committee is not to persuade or influence the people of the Territories about a particular political

alternative. We are aware that a popular misconception — propagated from some quarters — is that the Special Committee exists to force Territories into immediate independence. This is not so. The Special Committee exists to provide the people of the Territories with information on all of the options of political equality available to them and to assist where it can in furtherance of the self-determination process.

Annex III

Message from the Secretary-General

It gives me pleasure to send my greetings to all the participants in this United Nations regional seminar on decolonization. I thank the Government of Fiji for generously agreeing to host this event, and for doing so on short notice, thereby ensuring that a seminar in the Pacific would indeed take place this year. I also thank Fiji for its continuing support for the United Nations.

Much has been achieved in the decolonization effort since the early years of the United Nations, in particular since the adoption of the 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the establishment of the Special Committee on decolonization. However, as we all know, decolonization is incomplete, and 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories remain. It is the duty of the United Nations and the international community to bring this process to a successful conclusion.

Towards that end, the cooperation of the administering Powers will be vital if the Special Committee is to implement its mandate effectively. I am aware that the Committee has called for the use of my good offices to facilitate this process where needed. In the meantime, I reiterate my call on all administering Powers to show good faith and a willingness to implement the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations with regard to the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Tokelau's referendum in February was an important step in its quest for self-determination. The path followed by this small Pacific Territory, with the assistance of the administering Power, New Zealand, is an example of what can be achieved when there is political will and close cooperation between all parties concerned.

This will be my final message to you as Secretary-General. I thank the Special Committee and others committed to the process of decolonization for the support they have given me throughout my tenure. I remain hopeful that your efforts will lead to a revitalization of the dialogue and to a resolution of the outstanding issues. Please accept my best wishes for a productive seminar.

Annex IV

Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Fiji

The participants in the Pacific regional seminar,

Having met from 28 to 30 November 2006 in Yanuca, Fiji, for the purpose of reviewing priorities for action in the implementation of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Having heard the important statement by the Honourable Pio Tabaiwalu, State Minister for Small and Microenterprises and Information Technology of the Republic of the Fiji Islands,

Taking note of the important statements by the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Express their profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Fiji for providing the Special Committee with the necessary facilities for its seminar, for the outstanding contribution they have made to the success of the seminar and, in particular, for the very generous and kind hospitality and the warm and cordial reception accorded to the participants throughout their stay in Yanuca.

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